

that the surface characters cannot be definitely described, but the indications are that the incremental lines are rather rude and irregular; the base is rounded, with a deep chink, almost an umbilicus, behind the anterior portion of the inner lip; the shell is very slightly constricted medially; the aperture is narrow behind, the posterior commissure rounded, falling short of reaching the suture; the anterior part of the aperture is wide, rounded evenly into the pillar lip which shows no plait; the entire lip is thin and sharp, with a thin layer of enamel on the body. Length of shell, 8.5; of aperture, 6.5; maximum diameter, 4.5 mm.

Dredged in Departure Bay, British Columbia; T. S. Oldroyd. U. S. Nat. Mus. Cat. No. 333664.

While the surface characters of this species are obscure, its size and proportions definitely separate it from the species hitherto known from the region.

SHELL NOTES FROM ITALY

BY H. N. LOWE

Today is Good Friday, and Naples had the best display of fish of the year. I took a long walk through the old part of the city. The street stalls were piled high with all manner of fish and mollusks; great piles of squid and octopi of several species, buckets of clams, several kinds, and bushel baskets filled with snails which were continually crawling out into the street. There were long strings of black *Mytilus*. These mussels are raised attached to ropes of palm fiber, and appear to be sold by the yard. Yesterday morning, while waiting at the Santa Lucia dock for the Capri steamer, I saw fishermen bringing in boat loads of *Mytilus*, all in these long strings, about eight inches in diameter, growing on fiber ropes.

On the same dock were long ropes to which earthen jars were attached at intervals of about two yards, which I found were intended as homes for unsuspecting octopi.

The Zoological Station has a wonderful display of marine life, though the fish are not as gorgeous as those at Honolulu.

Clausilia seems to be almost everywhere here, from the rocks of Capri to the Pompeian theatre.

On the hills back of Palermo I found about a dozen species of Helices and Clausiliæ. At Girgenti they had even climbed to the top of the temple of Concordia. I enjoyed an interesting day collecting them around the Greek temples and rock tombs.

At Isola Bella, below Taormina, small marine shells were plentiful. About thirty-five species rewarded my exertions.

While in Palermo Mr. Beltrani kindly showed me his collection of mollusks and slides of radulae. He took me to see the famous collection of the Marquis of Monterosato, probably the richest in the world in Mediterranean mollusks, and containing a large number of types. It was a great privilege and treat to see this magnificent collection.

TAORMINA, April 10.

NOTES AND NEWS

THE EMENDATION OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES. — There is a tendency among some scientific writers to change the original form of a word to suit their own ideas as to its proper construction. This leads to no end of confusion and only adds to the synonymy. The rules of nomenclature clearly state that a name cannot be changed unless there is an obvious typographical error. Mr. J. R. le B. Tomlin, in the *Journal of Conchology*, vol. 17, p. 136, says: "There is at present among some Continental authors a deplorable tendency to tamper with the terminations of both geographical and personal specific names, apparently in a pedantic attempt to bring them into conformity with classical usage. In a recent and otherwise admirable work entitled 'Faune Malacologique . . . des Iles Mascareignes', Dr. Germain has thus arbitrarily altered no less than 25 such names, the net and only result being the creation of 25 unnecessary synonyms. No protest